

**HANNAH S. MIYAMOTO**

c/o SOCIOLOGY DEPT. • SAUNDERS HALL 247  
2424 MAILE WAY • HONOLULU, HI 96822  
[hannahmi@hawaii.edu](mailto:hannahmi@hawaii.edu) • mobile: (808) 561-0357

MAY 18 7 02 AM '09

RECEIVED

May 17, 2009

City Council  
City and County of Honolulu  
Budget Committee  
Honolulu Hale  
530 S. King Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: BILL 15, CD1 – EXECUTIVE OPERATING BUDGET AND PROGRAM

Honorable Councilmembers,

I support Bill 15 without reservations. I am especially glad that the bill funds a new Rapid Transit division, which is necessary to win a federal funding agreement for the rail transit line. The proposed rail line will not only restore mobility between 'Ewa and central Honolulu, but can also serve future extensions on exclusive and at-grade right-of-ways to Waikiki, Central Oahu, the Leeward and Windward coasts, Manoa valley, East Honolulu, and other areas.

In other words, building this vital backbone on an elevated guideway does not mandate that all future extensions must be "an elevated heavy rail" system, as recently claimed in city newspapers. From Kapolei to downtown, automated driverless light rail transit is clearly the best and most practical choice. However, the train control system to be installed can not only host trains to and from Kapolei, but also trains from additional lines built on city streets. Trains from Kapolei could even be switched over to overhead power at Ala Moana and run through Waikiki on city streets, like the streetcars and trolleybuses that once served the area.

Besides other light rail transit lines, the facility might eventually host electrically powered trolleybuses, or even dual mode buses that can switch from rail to road and from electricity to diesel. Seattle is one city that successfully mixes buses and rail on the same routes.

Rail transit, as advanced by Bill 15, opens future opportunities in this city, rather than cutting any off. I urge you to approve Bill 15.

Mahalo,

Hannah Miyamoto  
Manoa

RapidTransitBudget

MISC. COM. 1013

B